



TRAVEL ADVISORY NUMBER 22

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR TRAVELLERS TO SOLOMON ISLANDS

2nd June 2022

The Solomon Islands Government wishes to inform Solomon Islands Citizens and Non - Citizens planning to travel to Solomon Islands to take note of this latest travel advisory during the COVID-19 Pandemic. As the country work towards re-opening its international borders on 1st July 2022, it is important to take note of the following advisory.

This advisory covers the following areas:

- international passenger flights
- Entry requirements
- Quarantine period
- Miscellaneous provisions

A. International passenger flights

1. There are two weekly scheduled Solomon Airlines flight from Brisbane every Wednesdays and Fridays. Solomon Islands Citizens and non –citizens planning to travel Solomon Islands have to book with Solomon Airlines.
2. For foreign nationals, they will still need to apply for **exemption to the Oversight Committee to enter the country**. The process still applies if you intent to travel on or before 30 June 2022.

Short Business Visits and Tourism Bubble

3. As of 1st June, visitors or tourists can enter the country under the tourism bubble. Tourists will follow the health protocols put in place during the period. For example, they will book a hotel, and stay within their bubble for the first 6 days but they are free to move within their hotels or where they are accommodated. For more information, contact: 677 22442 or email info@tourismsolomons.com.sb. A detailed information regarding hotels, resorts and accommodation will be provided later by the Solomon Islands Visitors Bureau.
4. Must have a forwarding or return airlines ticket.

B. Entry Requirements

a. Mandatory Vaccination – a requirement for entry into Solomon Islands

5. **All travelers to Solomon Islands, 18 years and older must be fully vaccinated 4 weeks prior to arrival in the country.**
6. All Solomon Islands nationals travelling out of the country's international border need to be fully vaccinated.
7. **For travelers who are less than 18 years and are eligible to take their vaccination, they are strongly encouraged to do before they enter the country. If they are unable to do so, they must agree to be vaccinated as soon as practical after arrival.**
8. An electronic copy of both sides of the original vaccination certificate must be sent to the National Health Emergency Operational Centre [NHEOC] at NHEOC_REPAT@moh.gov.sb for verification by health authorities as 'proof of vaccination' before approval for travel is granted.
9. *It is strongly recommended that booster doses of the vaccine be taken as per the policy prevailing in departing country.*

C. Pre-departure and post arrival testing and quarantine requirements

10. The pre-departure Covid-19 test requirement is as follows;
 - i. One Pre-departure PCR COVID test within 72 hours prior to arrival followed by One Rapid Antigen Test within 12 hours of check-in **OR** a PCR within 12 hours prior to check-in.
 - ii. All tests should be performed by an accredited laboratory
 - iii. After arrival: One test during quarantine on Day 5
11. *The Ministry of Health and Medical Services can increase the pre-departure and post arrival requirements based on risk assessments*
12. Electronic copies of Pre-departure PCR COVID -19 and Rapid Antigen tests results must be sent to the National Health Emergency Operational Centre [NHEOC] at

NHEOC_REPAT@moh.gov.sb for assessment by health authorities before approval for travel is granted

13. The latest pre-departure questionnaire should be submitted to NHEOC_REPAT@moh.gov.sb FIVE DAYS prior to arrival in Solomon Islands.

D. Quarantine requirements

14. The quarantine days is as follows;
 - i. 6 days quarantine and 1 test on Day 5.
15. Incoming passengers are allowed to do their own bookings at any of the approved quarantine hotels and pay for their own quarantine costs in full. Hotels are responsible for managing the quarantine stations supported by Camp Management and Health for purposes of coordination and undertaking Covid tests during the quarantine period.
16. The government through Camp Management will undertake quarantine allocation for nationals and those agreed to by the government until the 30th June 2020. The arrangement is based on the following conditions and requirements;
 - i. Catering will no longer be provided. Families and friends to provide own food to those who are in quarantine. Should you need help while in quarantine, contact Quarantine Station Managers or call Phone: 677 -27837
 - ii. Apart from meeting quarantine costs, all foreign nationals apart from those agreed to by the government will meet COVID-19 tests fees. All payments must be made to the Ministry of Finance and Treasury before the end of quarantine period. 'Proof of payment' of the COVID-19 tests will trigger release from quarantine at the completion of quarantine.
17. Non-Government repatriates who quarantine in the SIG Institutional Stations must settle their accommodation and room services bills before they will be released from the facilities Liaise with Camp Management or the Ministry of Finance and Treasury to make arrangement on these requirements
18. Home quarantine is allowed post-arrival in Solomon Islands but in order to qualify for home quarantine, the traveler have to submit an application to the Incident Controller, MHMS for consideration. People who are allowed home quarantine will travel in their own vehicle to come to designated swabbing centre on Day 5 for swabbing for testing for COVID-19. They are not allowed to use public transport for this purpose. The information

on location and timing of swabbing centre will be communicated to the quarantined person in advance.

19. Exemption from quarantine will be granted by the Incident Controller on a case-to-case basis.

E. Exemption for non – Citizens/nationals

E.1 - Application processing fees

20. The Oversight Committee will still approve the application of foreign nationals/non-citizens to enter the country. The process remains until 30th June 2022. The following still applies;
 - a. processing fees for applicants to enter the country during the SOPE is \$2,000 per application.
 - b. Categories exempted from paying the processing fee are as follows;
 - i. Diplomatic missions
 - ii. Agreed bilateral programmes
 - iii. Agreed priority national projects
 - iv. Regional and Multilateral organisations
 - v. State Owned Enterprises (SOEs)
 - vi. UN Agencies
21. Apart from those under the tourism bubble, they have to pay the processing fee and submit the following documents;
 - i. Application Letter
 - ii. Official Treasury Receipt
 - iii. Valid work permit
 - iv. Long -term visa
 - v. Passport biodata page
 - vi. Vaccination Status (must be fully vaccinated, proof of vaccination must be provided)
 - vii. Dependency visa (under humanitarian grounds)
22. All applicants must submit those required documents before their applications can be processed and considered for approval.
23. All applicants must submit addressed and submitted electronically to the Chair of the Oversight Committee, Secretary to Cabinet, Mr James Remobatu, Office of the Prime Minister & Cabinet at jremobatu@pmc.gov.sb and copied to the Chair of the Subcommittee on the Exemption of Foreign Nationals, Deputy Secretary, Mr Cornelius Walegerea, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade at Cornelius.Walegerea@mfaet.gov.sb. When submitting your applications for exemptions to enter the country, at this stage, please, **DO NOT** copy the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS). You only submit the necessary documents for Health Assessment to the MHMS when your flight is confirmed.

E.5 – Precautionary measures to be observed by all intending travelers to Solomon Islands

24. All intending travelers to Solomon Islands must self-isolate or quarantine at least 3 days before their travel to Solomon Islands and strictly observe quarantine protocols.

Compliance to the Travel Advisory

25. The Solomon Islands Government seeks the full understanding and cooperation of everyone entering Solomon Islands during this challenging time to abide by the measures outlined in this Advisory.

Thank you and welcome to Solomon Islands

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James Remobatu', is written over a circular official stamp. The stamp contains the text 'THE PRIME MINISTER' at the top and 'OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER' at the bottom, with a central emblem.

Mr James Remobatu
Secretary to Cabinet and Chair of OSC